Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 /040 W

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R 150840Z MAY 75 FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2987 INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT AMEMBASSY ROME AMCONSUL FLORENCE

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NEA/ARP FOR AMBASSADOR STOLTZFUS

BEIRUT FOR DWOR; ROME FOR ELY AND LAASE; FLORENCE FOR GORDON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, EAIR, US, KU

SUBJECT: CIVIL AIR; LEARSTAR 600 PROJECT

REF: BEIRUT 5902 (NOT SENT DEPT)

- 1. HARRY JACKSON REPRESENTING LEAR COMPANIES HAS BEEN IN KUWAIT FOR MOST OF PAST WEEK FOR DISCUSSIONS REGARDING POSSIBLE FINANCING OF LEARSTAR 600 PROJECT. IN ADDITION TO SEVERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH CHARGE AND OTHER EMBOFFS, JACKSON MET WITH JAMIL HABBAS, GENERAL MANAGER, UNITED TRADING GROUP AND WITH SEVERAL MEMBERS SABAH FAMILY, INCLUDING SHAIKH SAAD.
- 2. JACKSON TOLD US THAT HIS VISIT HERE WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL, AND UTG HAS ASKED TO BE HIS REPRESENTATIVE HERE. JACKSON SAID HE WAS WAS IMPRESSED WITH AND PLEASED BY APPARENT OPENNESS AND CANDOR OF KUWAITIS HE MET. IN TURN THEY CLAIMED TO BE VERY INTERESTED IN PROJECT, AND HABBAS BELIEVES GOK ITSELF WILL BE INTERESTED. ALTHOUGH NO FORMAL AGREEMENTS WERE REACHED, JACKSON SAID HE HAS BEEN GIVEN FULL ENCOURAGEMENT BY KUWAITIS, AND AS OF NOW SIGNALS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARE ALL POSITIVE.

- 3. HABBAS HAS REQUESTED THAT RCAA DWOR PREPARE MEORANDUM ON TECHNCIAL FEATURES OF AIRCRAFT, AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT IT WILL BE SENT TO BOGOSIAN FOR TRANSMITTAL WITHIN NEXT WEEK OR SO.
- 4. COMMENT: BELIEVE IT TOO EARLY TO CONCLUDE THAT GOK OR PRIVATE KUWAITIS INCLUDING SBAH FAMILY MEMBERS WILL PROVIDE FULL FINANCING REQUIRED BY LEAR WHICH, WE UNDERSTAND TOTALS \$70 MILLION. WE HAVE CAUTIONED JACKSON, AND HE UNDERSTANDS POINT. NEVERTHELESS, HIS VISIT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN AS SUCCESSFUL AS COULD HAVE BEEN HOPED, AND HE WILL

BE FOLLOWING UP ON STEPS TAKEN SO FAR. IF HE IS SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING

SIGNIFICANT KUWAITI CAPITAL FOR HIS PROJECT, IT COULD BECOME A PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT KUWAITI INVESTMENT IN US INDUSTRY SINCE, ACCORDING TO JACKSON, SOME BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF LEARSTAR 600 SALES ARE ENVISAGED.

THIS LEVEL OF SALES, OF COURSE, WOULD ALSO HAVE IMPORTANT EMPLOYMENT-IN-US IMPLICATIONS AS WELL. WE HAVE NOTED PROBLEMS THAT COULD ARISE IF SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT IS INVOLVED, BUT JACKSON SAID HE HAD CONSIDERED THAT ASPACET AND AS FAR AS HE KNOWS THERE IS NONE. LEARSTAR 600 APPARENTLY HAS NO MILITARY APPLICATION.

5. FOR AMBASSADOR STOLTZFUS: YOU WILL RECALL THAT JACKSON CALLED YOU FROM ROME SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. HE IS SON-IN-LAW OF WILLIAM LEAR, INVENTOR OF LEARJET, AND HE RELATED THROUGH MARRIAGE TO FORMER AMBASSADOR REINHARDT. JACKSON DISAPPOINTED THAT HE MISSED SEEING YOU HERE, AND HE MAY WISH TO MEET WITH YOU IN WASHINGTON TOGETHER WITH LEAR HIMSELF. WE SUGGESTED THAT WHILE IN US HE CALL NEA/ARP (LUMSDEN) TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENT. JACKSON ADVISED THAT ANY MESSAGE FOR HIM BE SENT VIA AMCONSUL FLORENCE.

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